

Message Text

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42

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 IO-11 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01

CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-01 SP-02

STR-04 TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 SAM-01 OMB-01 TAR-01

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R 121700Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8006

INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, UK

SUBJECT: UK IMPORT SURVEILLANCE ON TVS AND TV PICTURE
TUBES

REF: STATE 6382

1. AS OF JANUARY 12, UKG INTENDS TO BEGIN IMPLEMENTA-
TION OF ITS IMPORT LICENSING SYSTEM FOR TVS AND TV
PICTURE TUBES ON JANUARY 15. THE PRESENT PLAN IS TO
HAVE SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM COVER ALL SOURCES OF SUPPLY,
EC MEMBERS AND THIRD COUNTRIES.

2. HOWEVER, THERE IS APPARENTLY A CONTINUING DEBATE
WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT ON WHETHER TO PROCEED ON LICENS-
ING IMPORTS FROM THE EC IN VIEW OF THE COMMISSION'S
THREAT TO TAKE ACTION AGAINST THE UK IF IT DOES SO.
THE ARGUMENT HINGES ON ARTICLE 31 OF THE ROME TREATY
WHICH PROHIBITS COMMUNITY MEMBERS FROM TAKING "MEASURES

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HAVING EQUIVALENT EFFECT" OF NEW QUANTITATIVE RESTRIC-

TIONS. PREDICTABLY, THE UKG SAYS THERE WILL BE NO EQUIVALENT EFFECT. ESPECIALLY IN VIEW OF THE EFFICIENCY WITH WHICH THEY EXPECT TO OPERATE THEIR SYSTEM. THERE DOES NOT SEEM TO BE ANY INTENTION HERE OF HAVING FURTHER DISCUSSIONS WITH COMMISSION ON THE ISSUE.

3. INTERNAL UKG DISCUSSIONS HAVE BEEN PRIMARILY CONCERNED WITH THE QUESTION OF WHETHER OR NOT TO MONITOR EC IMPORTS AND, ACCORDING TO OUR SOURCES, NOT A GREAT DEAL OF CONSIDERATION HAS BEEN GIVEN TO THE DISCRIMINATORY IMPACT ON THIRD COUNTRIES IF EC COUNTRIES WERE TO BE EXCLUDED FROM THE SYSTEM.

4. WE HAVE POINTED OUT TO UKG OFFICIALS THE FURTHER CONCERN THE US WOULD HAVE IF A DISCRIMINATORY SYSTEM WERE TO BE APPLIED IN WHICH ONLY NON-EC COUNTRIES WERE SUBJECT TO LICENSING REQUIREMENTS.

RICHARDSON

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